

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 EUR-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00
EB-07 /106 W

-----011402Z 022495 /45

R 011230Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4252
INFO AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3435

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PFOR, FT, SO, ET, US
SUBJ: CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH AT NAVAL COLLEGE AND MILITARY
ACADEMY GRADUATION

SUMMARY: MAY 29 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED PROVISIONAL
MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) CHAIRMAN LTCOL
MENGISTU SPEECH GIVEN AT JOINT NAVAL COLLEGE AND HARAR
MILITARY ACADEMY GRADUATION PREVIOUS DAY. WHILE NOTING
PRIMARY TASK OF ARMED FORCES WAS TO SAFEGUARD UNITY OF
MOTHERLAND, MENGISTU STATED SECONDARY TASK WAS TO ENSURE
REVOLUTION'S PROGRESS UNTIL PROLETARIAT PARTY ESTABLISHED
TO LEAD STRUGGLE. HE CITED OBLIGATION TO PROTECT NATIONAL
ECONOMY FROM SABOTAGE AND PRESERVE COUNTRY'S TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY AND UNITY. MENGISTU STATED AMERICAN IMPERIALISM,
ARCH ENEMY OF OPPRESSED MASSES, AND RULING CLASSES OF
REACTIONARY NEIGHBORING ARAB REGIMES ARRAYED TO
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ENCIRCLE AND STRANGLE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION MORE THAN
EVER BEFORE. MENGISTU STATED AMERICAN IMPERIALISM
HAD INCORRECTED ASSUMED THAT ITS CUT OF ARMS AID WOULD
REVERSE REVOLUTION OVERNIGHT AND FORCE COUNTRY TO
SURRENDER TO ITS ENEMIES. BECAUSE PROGRESSIVE
GOVTS AND FORCES LINED UP ON ETHIOPIA'S SIDE,
MENGISTU SAID "THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM WITH REGARD

TO ARMS." HE FURTHER NOTED RECENT PMAC VISIT TO SOVIET UNION "WON HIGH BENEFITS" FOR ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. MENGISTU REAFFIRMED POSITION ON DJIBOUTI, STATING ETHIOPIA WOULD NOT WATCH IDLY CONSPIRACY OF "REACTIONARY FORCES OF NEIGHBORING AREAS" TO SEVER LONG-STANDING HISTORICAL AND ECONOMIC LINKS AND WAS MORE PREPARED THAN EVER BEFORE TO WITHSTAND EVERY STEP WHICH MIGHT BE CONTRARY TO INTS INTERESTS.
END SUMMARY

1. PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU USED OPPORTUNITY JOINT NAVAL AND MILITARY ACADEMY GRADUATION AT JUBILEE PALACE (FORMER EMPEROR'S PALACE) TO DELIVER MAJOR SPEECH. IN EXHORTING CADETS, MENGISTU ENUMERATED THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO REVOLUTIONARY MOTHERLAND TO SAFEGUARD NATIONAL UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, ENSURE REVOLUTION'S CONTINUED PROGRESS MEANINGFUL LEADERSHIP BY CULTIVATED DISCIPLINE AND AWAKENING POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF FORCES, INTEGRATE WITH COUNTRY'S RANK AND FILE TO GREATER DEGREE THAN IN PAST, SPREAD IDEOLOGY OF SOCIALISM IN ARMED FORCES, SUPPORT AND SAFEGUARD ECONOMIC GROWTH FROM SABOTAGE, AND PROTECT ETHIOPIA'S RED SEA RIGHTS.

2. TURNING TO UNITED STATES, MENGISTU CHARACTERIZED AMERICAN IMPERLIASM IN NOW FAMILIAR PHRASE, AS ARCH ENEMY OF OPPRESSED MASSES AND IN LEAGUE WITH RULING CLASSES OF NEIGHBORING REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES, ARRAYED TO ENCIRCLE AND STRANGLE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION.
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HE SAID AMERICAN IMPERIALISM HAD BEEN FORCED TO SWALLOW ITS REACTIONARY ASSESSMENT THAT, "BY CUTTING ITS ARMS AID", REVOLUTION WOULD BE REVERSED OVERNIGHT AND BE FORCED TO SURRENDER TO ITS ENEMIES. MENGISTU DECLARED, "NOW IS TIME WHEN WE HAVE TO CRUSH ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ENCIRCLEMENT WITH UNITY AND DETERMINATION STRONGER THAN STEEL AND HOIST NEW BANNER OF VICTORY AT PRICE OF OUR BLOOD".

3. MENGISTU NOTED ARMS "WILL BE NO PROBLEM", AS PROGRESSIVE GOVTS AND FORCES ARE ON ETHIOPIA'S SIDE. HE ASSURED CADETS RECENT PMAC VISIT TO SOVIET UNION "WON HIGH BENEFITS" FOR ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTUION AND HAD RECEIVED LEADERSHIP'S SUPPORT FOR EFFORT ETHIOPIAN MAKING TO BREAK ENCIRCLEMENT AND MOVE STRUGGLE FURTHER AHEAD.

4. ON DJIBOTI, MENGISTU NOTED APPROACHING INDEPENDENCE WITH PRIDE AND STATED ETHIOPIA WILL ENDEAVOR

FORGE RELATIONS STRONGER THAN BEFORE. HE AVERRED ETHIOPIA WOULD NOT WATCH IDLY CONSPIRACY OF "NEIGHBORING REACTIONARY FORCES" TO SEVER LONG-STANDING HISTORICAL AND ECONOMIC ETHIOPIAN-DJIBOUTI LINKS. HE ADDED ETHIOPIA MORE PREPARED THAN EVER BEFORE "TO WITHSTAND ANY AND EVERY STEP WHICH MIGHT BE CONTRARY TO NATIONAL INTERESTS OF ETHIOPIA IN DJIBOUTI."

5. COMMENT: MENGISTU ALLUSION TO PRESERVATION OF REVOLUTION'S PROGRESS UNTIL ESTABLISHMENT OF PRO-LETARIAT PARTY PROVIDES FURTHER EVIDENCE OF GROWING URGENCY FOR PARTY'S ESTABLISHMENT. OTHER PERSONAL MENGISTU CONCERNS WHICH EMERGE BY IMPLICATION FROM SPEECH INCLUDE NEED FOR LOYAL MILITARY LEADERS (DEFECTION, ABANDONMENTS OF POST, AND PRIVILEGED CLASS BACKGROUND OF MANY INCUMBENT OFFICERS),
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MILITARY COMMITMENT TO SOCIALIST STATE (POLITICAL DISSENT WITHIN RANKS), AND VULNERABILITY OF ETHIOPIA'S ECONOMY TO "SABOTAGE" (FRAGILE RAIL AND TRANSPORTATION LINKS TO SEA). SLAP AT AMERICAN IMPERIALISM, ALONG WITH "NEIGHBORING REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES", CAST IN TERMS OF MENGISTU'S STANDARD PROPAGANDA LINE THAT US CONSPRING WITH ETHIOPIA'S ENEMIES TO BRING DOWN REVOLUTUION.
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